

Amendments to the Claims

The listing of claims will replace the previous version, and the listing of claims:

Listing of Claims

1. (currently amended) An airbag for protecting an occupant, comprising:

a left half airbag to be deployed toward the occupant on a left side of the occupant,

a right half airbag to be deployed toward the occupant on a right side of the occupant and connected to the left half airbag at midsections ~~thereof~~ in a direction that the left half airbag and the right half airbag deploy, and

a width constraining ~~means~~ device attached to the left half airbag and right half airbag, respectively, for constraining lateral widths thereof expanding in a lateral width direction substantially perpendicular to the direction that the left and right half airbags deploy when the left half airbag and the right half airbag are inflated.

2. (currently amended) An airbag according to claim 1, wherein said width constraining ~~means~~ device extends in a the lateral width direction of the airbag.

3. (currently amended) An airbag according to claim 1, wherein said width constraining ~~means~~ device includes a joining ~~means~~ member for joining panels for constituting each of the left half airbag and the right half airbag, ~~respectively~~.

4. (original) An airbag according to claim 1, wherein said left half airbag and right half airbag have distal ends facing the occupant, said distal ends being separated from each other so that

a space is formed between the distal ends facing the occupant when the left half airbag and the right half airbag are inflated.

5. (currently amended) An airbag according to claim 1, further comprising a connecting member for connecting outer portions of the left half airbag and the right half airbag ~~at facing portions thereof~~ each other, said connecting member being formed separately from the width constraining device and extending in a connecting direction of the left half airbag and the right half airbag.

6. (currently amended) An airbag according to claim 5, wherein said width constraining ~~means~~ device extends in a the lateral width direction of the airbag, and said width constraining ~~means~~ device and said connecting member are aligned linearly when the airbag is inflated.

7. (currently amended) An airbag according to claim 1, further comprising vertical width constraining ~~means~~ devices for constraining vertical widths of the left half airbag and the right half airbag when the left half airbag and the right half airbag are deployed.

8. (original) An airbag according to claim 1, wherein at least one of said left half airbag and said right half airbag includes an inclined upper portion so that the one of the left half airbag and the right half airbag does not contact an interior of a vehicle when the left half airbag and the right half airbag are inflated.

9. (original) An airbag according to claim 1, wherein at least one of said left half airbag and said ~~right~~ half airbag includes a portion having a thickness gradually decreasing upwardly when the left half airbag and the right half airbag are inflated.

10. (original) An airbag according to claim 1, wherein said left half airbag and said right half airbag have distal ends thereof separated by a distance of 150 - 350 mm when the left half airbag and the right half airbag are deployed.

11. (currently amended) An airbag according to claim 1, further comprising a base communicating with the left and right half airbags, said left and right half ~~airbag~~ airbags separately projecting outwardly from the base.

12. (original) An airbag apparatus comprising the airbag according to claim 1 and an inflator for inflating the airbag.

13. (new) An airbag according to claim 1, wherein each of said left half airbag and said right half airbag has panel portions facing each other in said lateral width direction, said width constraining device connecting said panel portions of each of said left half airbag and said right half airbag.